

U.S. Department of Labor

**Employment & Training Administration
Office of Job Corps
61 Forsyth Street
Room 6T95
Atlanta, GA 30303**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2005

**CONTACT: Wenomia Person
Office of Job Corps
(404) 562-2372**

NORTH CAROLINA JOB CORPS STUDENTS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES
North Carolina Job Corps Centers Donated 6,112 Hours to Volunteer Projects in 2004

ATLANTA – North Carolina Job Corps students displayed their talents and skills as well as their love for their communities by contributing 6,112 hours of community service in 2004.

Whether stocking shelves and distributing food to the needy at local soup kitchens, hanging drywall for Habitat for Humanity or even volunteering for civic beautification, students at the four North Carolina Job Corps centers (Kittrell, Lyndon B. Johnson, Oconaluftee and Schenck) put their job skills training to use and made a lasting impact in the communities around them.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of our students and our neighbors since its founding 40 years ago,” said Job Corps Atlanta Region Director Don Scott. “Giving back to the communities where our centers are located is one of the most important things we do as a program each year.”

Students at Kittrell JCC worked with 20 organizations in 2004 and contributed 1,212 hours of community service. Volunteer projects included: serving the homeless at local soup kitchens, visiting with seniors groups and various civic beautification projects. Throughout the year, Kittrell worked with organizations such as ACTS Soup Kitchen, Adopt-a-Highway, the Durham VA Hospital and The Salvation Army.

Lyndon B. Johnson JCC donated 1,254 hours of service to the community. Students and staff hosted events for the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, used their masonry skills to fabricate and install metal gates and walkways for the Friends of the Greenway as well as constructed awnings and handicap-access ramps for CareNet. Other projects included various community cleanup and park improvement projects and construction-related improvements for multiple civic organizations.

-more-

North Carolina Job Corps Celebrates Community Service / Page 2

Oconaluftee JCC led all North Carolina centers with 3,646 hours of community service during 2004. Students assisted Habitat for Humanity in multiple home renovations by hanging drywall and refurbishing floors. The Oconaluftee JCC also worked with organizations like the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to distribute food to the needy and helped Swain County High School with various campus construction projects.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of the nation’s youth since its inception, and it’s vital that we teach our students the importance of giving back to their communities,” Scott said. “This year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary, and there’s no better way to commemorate this occasion than by making a difference in the communities that have provided support and encouragement to each of our centers for the last four decades.”

Job Corps students nationwide represent one of the largest volunteer forces in the United States. Collectively, the 19 centers in the Southeast (Job Corps Atlanta Region) donated more than 101,119 hours of community service in 2004.

Projects in the region include:

- ? Blood drives with the American Red Cross
- ? Providing support for The Salvation Army
- ? Beautification projects for Make a Difference Day
- ? Various fund-raising events with local schools and churches
- ? Cleanup projects for Adopt-a-Highway
- ? Walk-a-thons benefiting various organizations (March of Dimes, Leukemia Society)
- ? Visiting the elderly in nursing homes

Job Corps is celebrating its 40th Anniversary from September 2004 to September 2005. Job Corps is the nation’s largest and oldest federally funded job training and education program for disadvantaged youths ages 16 through 24. At 122 centers nationwide, the program trains 65,000 youth each year in more than 100 different trade areas. For more information about Job Corps, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.

###